

The Internet is Written in Pen - Musings on The Social Network

OCT 3RD

Posted by [Michael Kasaboski](#) in [Movies](#)

2 comments



One of the many cool things about living in Toronto is its burgeoning crowd of social media enthusiasts. This circle of techies, geeks, artists, musicians, writers, pop culture enthusiasts, entrepreneurs – you name the profession – seemingly grows exponentially with each passing week. And not only is it a growing group, but it's a fun, welcoming and interactive group. After all, what would social media be without interaction? Over the past two years, as the Toronto social media network has been growing, I've had the good fortune to attend several different events and Tweet-ups and have consistently met some of the most amazing people. This past week's advanced screening of *The Social Network*, was no exception.

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Fighting Gravity redefines Awesome

OCT 2ND

Posted by [Bob Starr](#) in [Television](#)

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While I'm writing about America's Got Talent I may as well chime in about the act which should have taken the grand prize: [Fighting Gravity](#). The 13 member group, all students from Virginia Tech, put together an act that was nothing short of awesome, unique, and was unlike anything I've ever seen before. Every one of their performances raised the bar and proved they deserved, no demand, a show of their own in Las Vegas. Even the judges on the show were

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using their name alongside the likes of The Blue Man Group and Cirque du Soleil. Fighting Gravity proved not only to be incredibly entertaining but the act itself could scale into bigger performances. The showmanship is huge and given that these guys had no formal training you could easily teach more members to do what they do. As impressive as 13 members is, I can only imagine what could be accomplished with 26 or even 39! The scale to this could be endless.

Make no mistake, Fighting Gravity absolutely should have won. What were you thinking America?

Nevertheless, when you get to the top four in America's Got Talent you kind of end up being a winner anyway. Fighting Gravity will be joining some of the other popular acts on the show for a 25 city tour. Here's hoping the exposure, and recognition, gets them representation and they end up on their own in Las Vegas. There's not a lot of shows like this I would pay to see. Fighting Gravity is definitely one I would!

Check out all their performances on America's Got Talent and if you can catch them live go for it!



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PLUtonic proves geeks are cool!

OCT 2ND Posted by [Bob Starr](#) in [Television](#)

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Ordinarily over the Summer months, when all my favorite shows are on hiatus, I find some off network show to watch (e.g. Weeds). This passed Summer, however, I found myself lulled into the convenience of watching reality television. It pains me to admit to that.

As my otherwise astute sense of quality programming slowly became dumbed down I got hooked on America's Got Talent. Loads of off-the-street acts all fighting for a million dollar grand prize and show in Las Vegas. Given the diversity in acts I usually root for anything but a singer. This isn't American Idol afterall, it's America's Got Talent.

Unfortunately, this season, a singer won. Yawn. Personally I think they should ban solo singing acts because, again, this isn't American Idol.

One act I really wanted to see go further, and it's simply a disgrace they didn't, was a group named [PLUtonic](#). This Acappella group managed to successfully bundle cool, fun and geek all into one wickedly entertaining package. Check out the video of their performance below and you'll see how they manage to pull this off.

Way to go, PLUtonic! You deserved nothing less than the finals.

Note: This post was inspired by [Luc's post about ArcAttack](#) which was also on this season of America's Got Talent.



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Misfits: A brief Review

SEP 30TH Posted by [Adam Samec](#) in [Television](#)

 [No comments](#)



In 2009, British channel E4 aired the first in a six part series called [Misfits](#). This comedy/drama follows five young people who are doing community service after being arrested for various crimes. During their first session, they are forced to paint park benches, a freak electrical storm occurs and they are all struck by lightning. Instead of being injured, they all receive superpowers. Now I know what you are thinking, a British Heroes, but let me assure you that this series is much better. It does all the things that Heroes failed to do.

What makes this show interesting is that the five main characters are the most diverse group of people you will ever see. It only makes sense as they are just serving their community service. In the first few episodes they don't particularly like each other and argue and fight as you would expect young delinquents to. The characters are very well constructed with fully fleshed out backstories. They show a depth and richness that is lacking in most comedic show characters (especially considering the first series is only 6 episodes) in North American television. By the third episode I was truly invested in these characters and what happened to them. With a cast of young, talented actors,

The other reason I think this show works is that the main characters don't really know how to use their power. It's not like some other super hero shows, where they get their power and by the third episode they have full control of the power and are able to use it as they see fit. In Misfits, the characters powers activate when they are needed (one character doesn't appear to have a power until the very last episode). One of the characters, Curtis, has the ability to turn back time and change a decision that he made. There is one episode where he attempts to break up with his girlfriend, but every time she cries his powers activate and send him back to the beginning of the break up conversation. It is a rather amusing bit of comedic T.V.

While this show may not be for everyone, I do think it is worth checking out. It's strong characters and natural dialogue are refreshing and new, especially if you are tired of the typical comedy fare here in North America. Series two has been given the green light for 2010, so expect some new material soonish.



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Music Played Using Tesla Coils

SEP 30TH Posted by [Luc Ippersiel](#) in [Technology](#) [No comments](#)

Leave it to geeks to come up with cools things to do with technology. Here are some Tesla Coils that are playing music. The music is produced from the bolts of electricity that are emitted from the coils and not bolts of electricity reacting to the music. Check out the video:



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Hack is Wack! Contest

SEP 29TH Posted by [Luc Ippersiel](#) in [Technology](#) [1 comment](#)



This is an example of a terrible marketing campaign between two entities that should never work together. In this example, it's a partnership between Snoop Dogg and Symantec Norton. The idea of the contest is someone is to create a rap video against any kind of hacking or

cybercrime.

You can listen to hilarious commentary of people in the hacking community on the Off the Hook radioshow/podcast from 2600 ([download here](#)). Needless to say they discredit Snoop Dogg and make many good commentary points.

Anyways if you want to enter the contest head over to www.hackiswack.com, create a rap video about the awareness of cybercrime for a chance to win a chance to a concert of Snoop Dogg and a laptop loaded with Norton 360. The contest closes at the end of September.

Where will it end? /facepalm.

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Internet Explorer 9 Beta Available for Public Download

SEP 28TH Posted by [Luc Ippersiel](#) in [Technology](#) 1 comment



If you want to see what all the hype's about (depending on which circles you follow online) then you can head over to the [beta page of IE9](#) and download yourself a copy of either the 32-bit or 64-bit version. Just don't forget that XP isn't supported with IE9 (yet?)

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